Nuclear Policy

1722. SHRI GURUDAS DAS-GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether after conducting five under ground nuclear tests successfully there is any change in the Government's nuclear policy and on the question of signing the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government keeps the country's nuclear policy under constant review. Following the recent nuclear tests at Pokhran on May 11 and 13, 1998, Government are in the process of reviewing the nuclear policy of the country. Government have declared that India would be willing to consider being an adherent to some of the undertakings of the CTBT. However, Government has stated that these decisions cannot be taken in a vacuum but would depend upon reciprocal responses. Government has also announced that India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting underground nucelar test explosions.

Agreement between UN Secretary-General and Iraq

1723. SHRI E. BALANANDAN:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the agreement negotiated by the U.N. Secretary-General Mr. Kofi Annan with the Iraqi President, Saddam Hussein; and

(b) the reaction of Govenrment thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) The UN Secretary General, Mr. Kofi Annan signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister, Mr. Tariq Aziz in Baghdad on February 23, 1998. The main features of the agreement are as follows:

(i) The agreement reaffirms the commitment of all member States "to respect the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq'.

(ii) Iraq has undertaken to provide the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM), seeking to locate and eliminate weapons of mass destruction (WMD) in Iraq in terms of earlier UN Security Council resolutions, "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted access" to all sites, while, on its part, UNSCOM has undertaken to respect the legitimate concerns of Iraq relating to national security, sovereignty and dignity.

(iii) It provides that the inspection of the Presidential sites to obtain evidence of possible WMD programmes shall be done under "special procedures" which shall include the setting up of a "Special Group" by the UN Secretary General for the inspection of these sites; this group will consist of diplomats as well as UNSCOM inspectors and will be headed by a Commissioner appointed by the UN Secretary General.

(iv) The special group will operate under the established procedures of UNSCOM and will also develop "specific detailed procedures" pertaining to its functioning.

(v) The MoU refers to "the progress made by UNSCOM in various disarmament areas" and reaffirms the commitment of both the UN and the Iraqi Government to speed-up the inspeciton process. The Agreement notes that the lifting of sanc-